Funds Released for Upliftment of Scheduled Castes

289. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the funds released to Kerala during 1994-95 under the Special Central Assistance for the upliftment of Scheduled Castes;

(b) the total budgetary outlay under this scheme for Kerala for 1995-96 alongwith the actual amount released during this period; and

(c) the budgetary outlay under this scheme for 1996-97?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) . (a) Rs 508 81 Lakhs.

(b) Budgetary outlay for States/UTs is not fixed in advance for the following reasons

(i) Special Central Assistance is apportioned among the States/UTs on the basis of certain fixed criteria including SC population percentage and relative backwardness of the States/UTs and efforts being taken by the States/UTs for the development of SCs

(ii) Information on the efforts being taken by the States/UTs is normally received by the Central Government in the third quarter of the financial year and there are downward or upward variation in the efforts taken by the States/UTs year after year.

The actual amount released to Kerala for 1995-96 was Rs 492 73 lakhs

(c) No budgetary outlay under this scheme has been made to any state for the reason mentioned at (a) above A sum of Rs 287 98 lakh has been released to Kerala as first instalment of SCA for 1996-97, on the basis of SC population percentage and releative backwardness of States/UTs.

Child Labour

290. SHRI KESHAB MAHANTA
SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH
SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH
KUMARI UMA BHARATI
DR ARUN KUMAR SARMA
SHRI N DENNIS
SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state

(a) the number of child labourers working in various factories and as domestic servants, separately,

(b) whether the Government propose to ban on child labour;

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government in thiss regard;

(d) the progress made in regard to eliminate the child labour; and

(e) the time by which the child labour problem is likely to be completely eliminated?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M ARUNACHALAM) : (a) The number of child labourers working in various factories and as domestic servants are not maintained.

(b) and (c). As per the provisions of Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986, the emloyment of children is prohibited in 7 occupations and 18 processes contained in Parts 'A' & 'B' of the Schedule to the Act. Through a Notification dated 26.5 1993, the working conditions of children have been regulated in all employments which are not prohibited under the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act.

(d) and (e) While the ultimate aim is the complete elimination of the practice of child labour the progressive release and rehabilitation of an estimated 20 lakh children engaged in hazardous employments by 2000 AD has been taken up in the first instance So far, 76 National child labour projects have been sanctioned to cover around 1.5 lakh children working in hazardous occupations The Government has not finalised any time-frame for complete elimination of child labour in employments

Setting up of N.H.F.D.C.

291. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state

(a) whether the Union Government propose to set up a National Handicap Finance and Development Corporation with equity participation of both Centre and States;

(b) if so, whether the proposal was submitted during the meeting of State Ministers of Welfare held in 1996, and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the proposal is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) (a) The Government has decided to set up the National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation under Section 25 of the Companies Act, 1956 to promote economic developmental activities, self-employment and other ventures for the benefit/ economic rehabilitation of the handicapped persons with an authorised share capital of Rs 400 crores (Rupees Four Hundred Crores only) divided into 40 lakhs (Forty Lakhs equity share of Rs 1000/- (Rupees One Thousand)